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MEMORANDUM FOR: SPECIAL ASSISTANT, INTELLIGENCE, DEPARTMENT
OF STATE

SUBJECT : Interdepartmental Committee on Psychological
Intelligence

1. In consideration of your letter of 15 February 1950 regarding my proposal of 13 January 1950 to establish an interdepartmental committee on psychological intelligence, I regret that you find it inadvisable at this time to designate a Department of State representative to serve on the subject committee.

2. I am frankly puzzled by your statement that "...the Department believes that it is premature to establish such a committee before NSC 59 has been approved...". As you know this Agency participates on a full time basis in the NSC 59 organization through its representative on the Interdepartmental Foreign Information Staff (IFIS). The question of a psychological intelligence committee was presented to the NSC 59 organization through my representative on the IFIS. In this respect, I was advised that the Department considered it undesirable to constitute the intelligence committee as a sub-committee of the IFIS, but that the Central Intelligence Agency could establish whatever intelligence committee it thought desirable and necessary to meet its obligations under the terms of its charter. Accordingly, and since I regard my responsibilities as being very clear with respect to psychological intelligence, I am now proceeding with the establishment of facilities needed to mobilize the foreign psychological intelligence effort of the government in support of the planning and conduct of psychological operations.

3. I cannot regard this step as premature from my point of view, nor from that of other agencies and departments of the government, including the Department of State. In addition to my responsibilities under NSC 10, and the intelligence support thereof, I have existing psychological intelligence requirements to meet on

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behalf of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Moreover the NSC 59 organization has adopted the policy of accomplishing as much as it can pending the approval of NSC 59, and has presented me with the first of a series of intelligence requirements for the purpose of supporting current psychological warfare planning. It is my understanding that the IFIS is presently engaged in developing further intelligence requirements for the actual conduct of psychological warfare, which it intends to forward to me for action upon completion. In view of these existing psychological intelligence requirements, I cannot delay positive action leading toward the mobilization of an interdepartmental intelligence effort to fulfill them. I regard the Department of State, through your organization, as being responsible for assisting me within the limits of your capabilities in this respect.

4. Each of the other participating intelligence agencies have named representatives to the subject committee. I am reluctant to convene the committee without representation from the Department of State, and yet I am most anxious to proceed, at the earliest possible time, to undertake the fulfillment of these outstanding commitments.

5. I therefore request that you reconsider the position you have taken on this matter and advise me at your earliest convenience.

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ORE - S/PP
[redacted] /pgt
6 Mar 50

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